

Sept. 5802

The Current Index of Anesthesia & Analgesia

F. H. McMECHAN, A.M., M.D.
Editor

1932

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Re-Published Every Year by the

International Anesthesia
Research Society

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

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The Chemical Laboratory

THE FOLLOWING IS A REPORT BY THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
CHEMICAL LABORATORY.
P. N. LEECH, Director.

EXAMINATION OF ETHYLENE FOR ANESTHESIA.—V

The control of anesthetic agents requires vigilance by both manufacturers and standard-enforcing agencies. Even though impurities may be slight and relatively harmless, in anesthesia the purest product obtainable should be employed. For this reason the U. S. Pharmacopeia has required high standards for ether. One who follows carefully the Notices of Judgment of the Food and Drug Administration cannot help but appreciate how alert the government has been in enforcing these standards. Pharmaceutic manufacturers have also made large expenditures investigating the keeping qualities of ether.

Ethylene is a relatively recent addition to the agents employed widely for general anesthesia. It is not described in the Pharmacopeia and therefore does not directly concern the Drug Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. When ethylene first came on the market, the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry requested the A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory to establish standards for this substance. Not only has the Laboratory established suitable standards but, because of the nonofficial status of the gas, frequent examinations have been made of the market supply of ethylene. Recently there was submitted to the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry a new brand of ethylene. It was deemed advisable at the same time this product was examined chemically to purchase market supplies of the other products described in New and Nonofficial Remedies. Accordingly, tanks of ethylene for anesthesia were purchased both in Chicago and in Columbus, Ohio. In this work the A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory again secured the cooperation of Dr. Warren R. Smith, head of the Department of Chemistry at Lewis Institute, Chicago. The results of the examinations of ten cylinders of ethylene are given in the accompanying table.

Brand	Source	Cylinder No	Percentage Not Absorbed by Bromine Water	Indicated Percentage of Ethylene	Carbon Dioxide	Carbon Monoxide	Acidity or Alkalinity	Impurities by Silver Ammonia Hydroxide
—	Chicago	20771	1.1 1.1	98.9 98.9	0	0	0	0
—	Columbus	78314	1.2 1.2	98.8 98.8	0	0	0	0
—	Chicago	17405	1.2 1.2	98.8 98.8	0	0	0	0
—	Columbus	16767	1.6 1.6	98.4 98.4	0	0	0	0
—	Chicago	18337	1.1 1.1	98.9 98.9	0	0	0	0
—	Columbus	25939	1.0 1.0	99.0 99.0	0	0	0	0
→ Puritan	Chicago	29057	0.5 0.5	99.5 99.5	0	0	0	0
Puritan	Columbus	20859	0.6 0.6	99.4 99.4	0	0	0	0
—	Chicago	1603	1.0 1.0	99.0 99.0	0	0	0	0
—	Mfr.	1563	0.90 0.95	99.1 99.05	0	0	0	0



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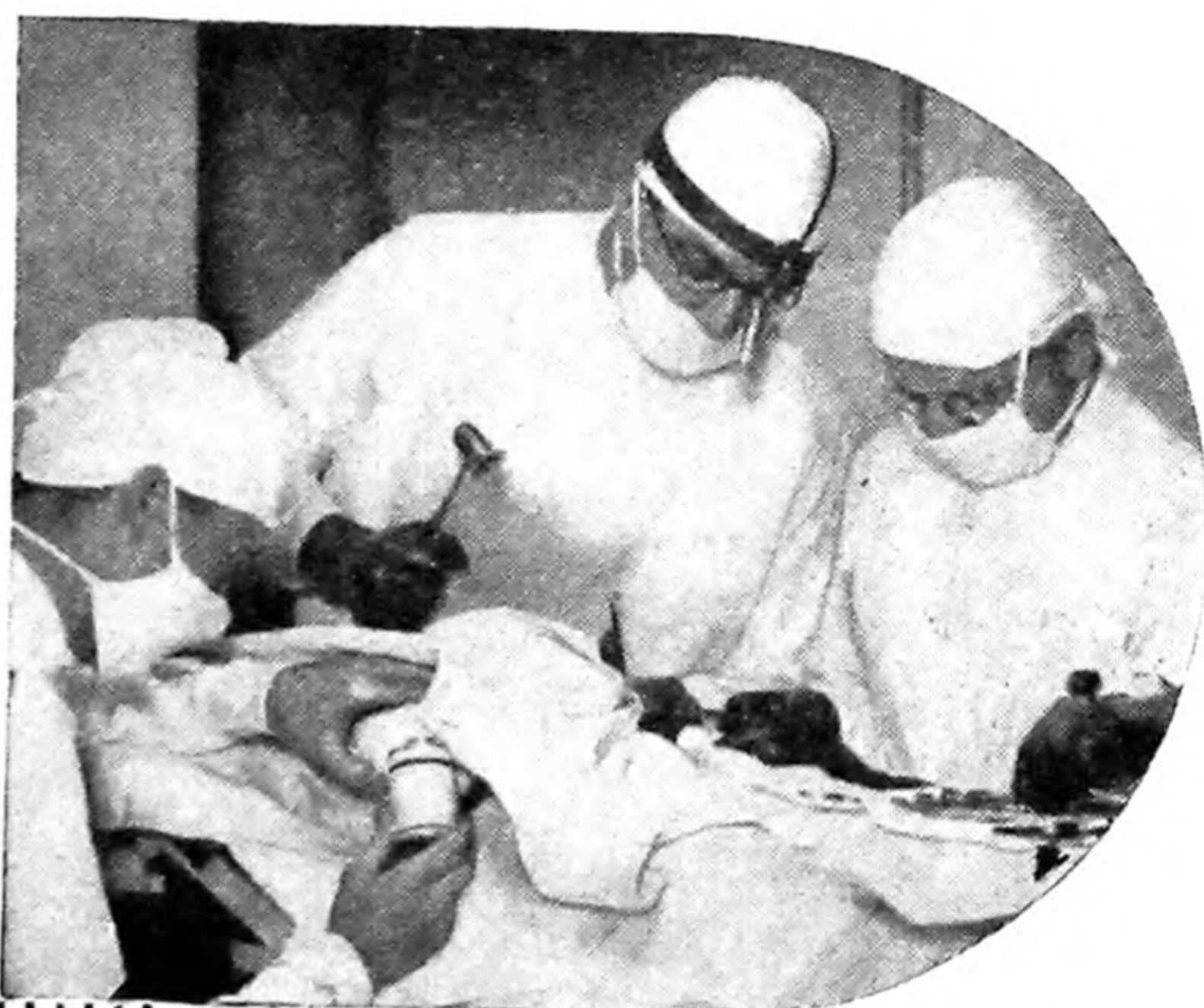
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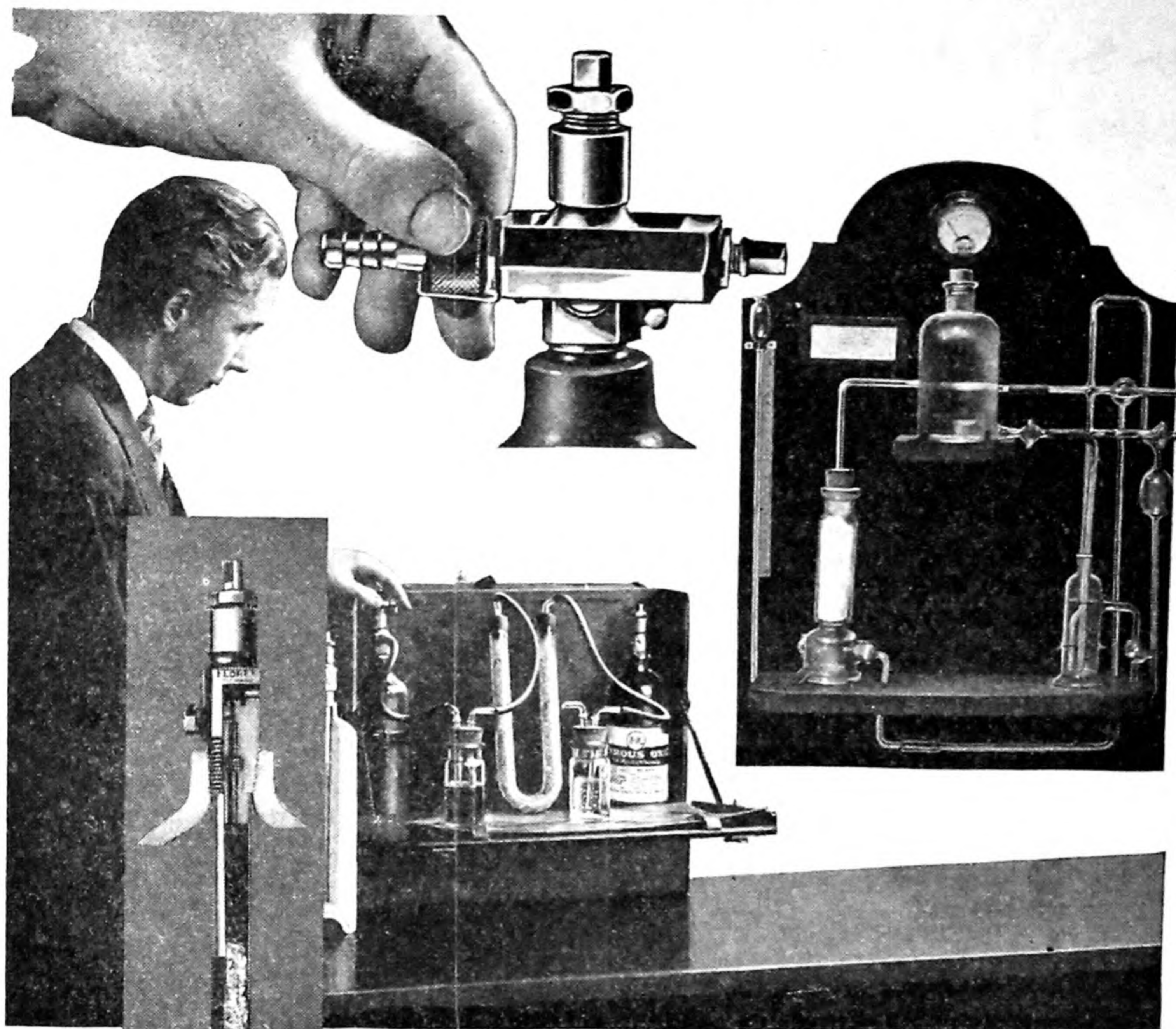


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Supplement—January-February, 1932 Issue

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British Journal of Anesthesia

Annual Subscription, £2, post free—U. S. A. \$10
Single Copies, 10s. 6d. Published Quarterly.

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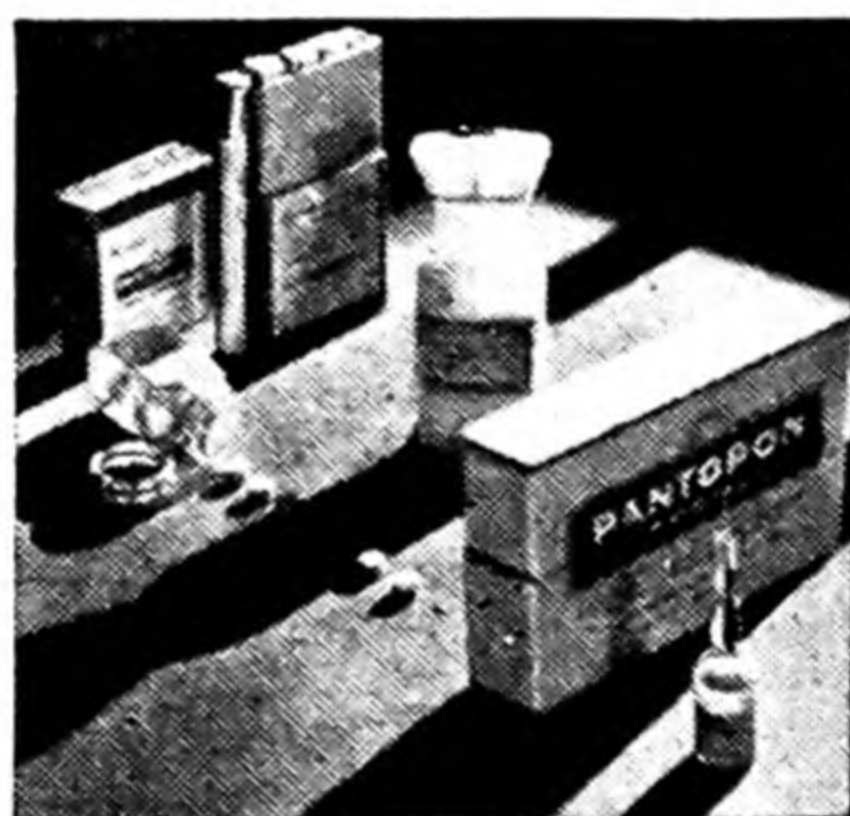
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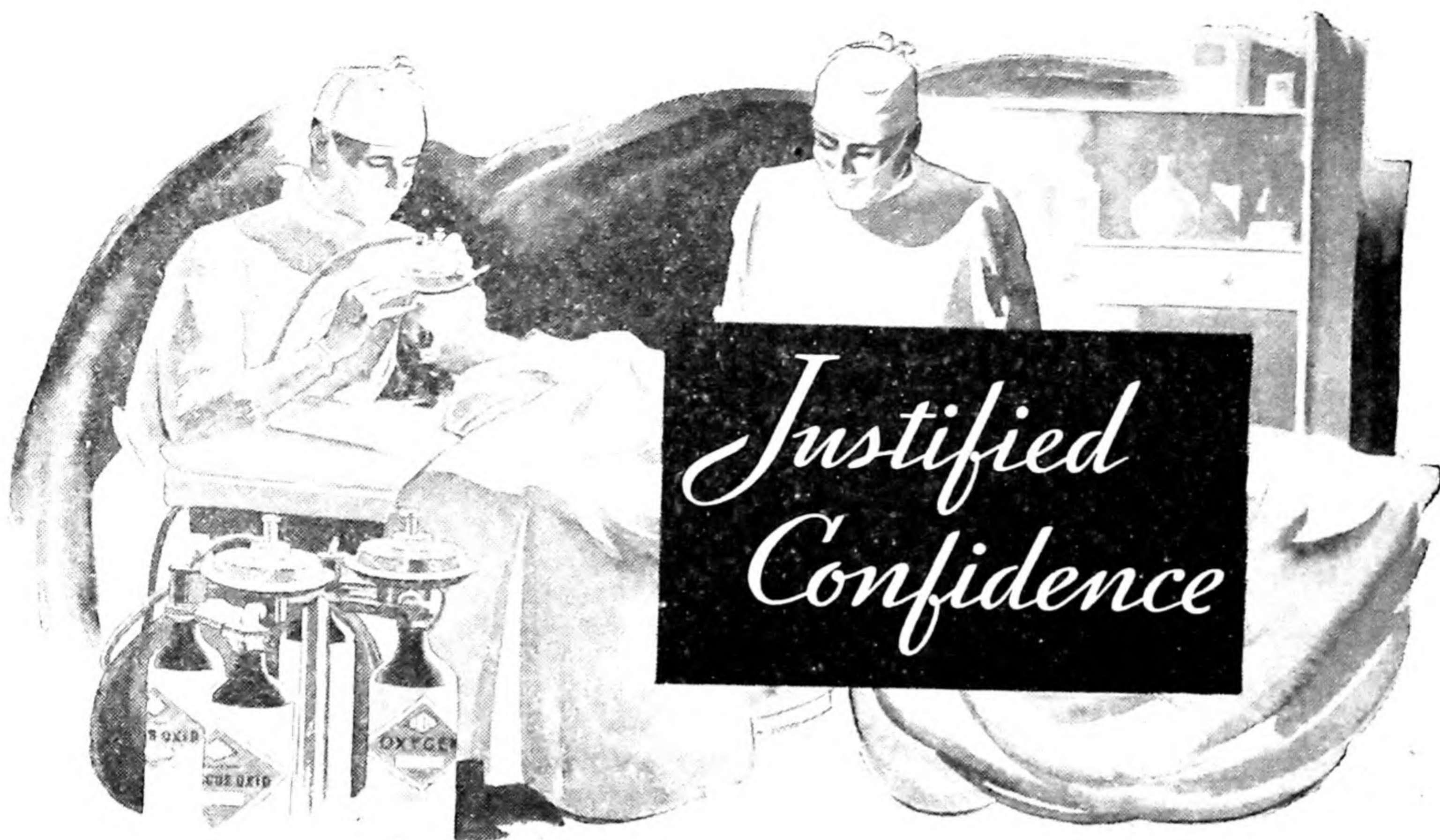
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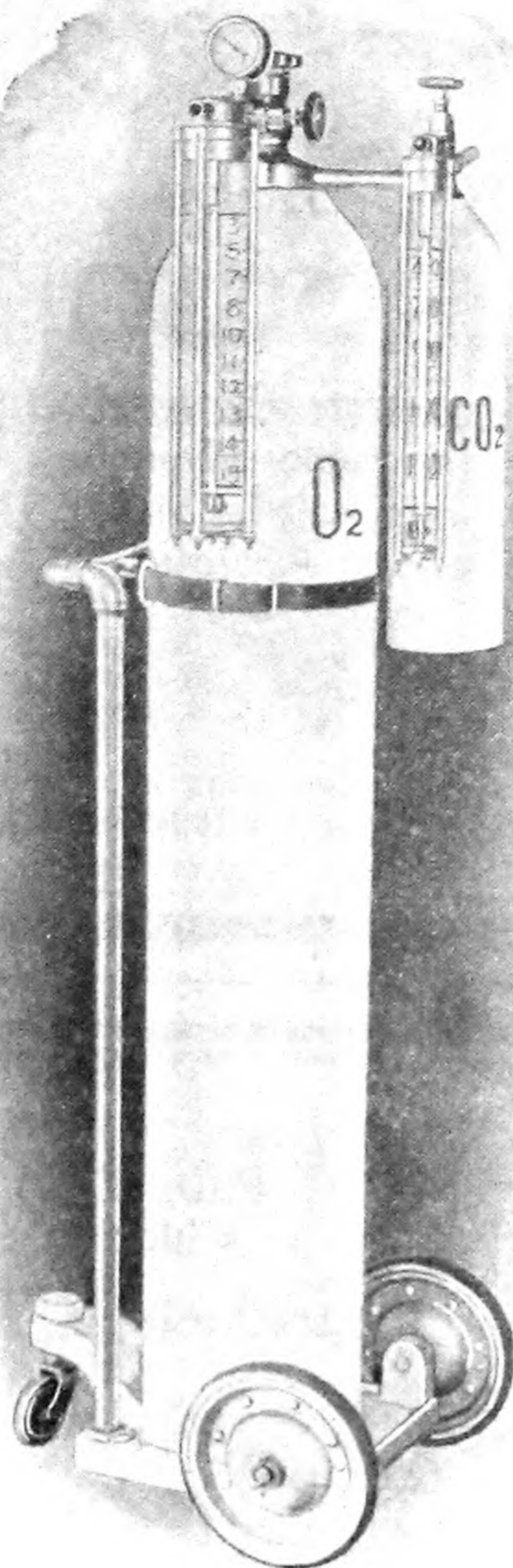
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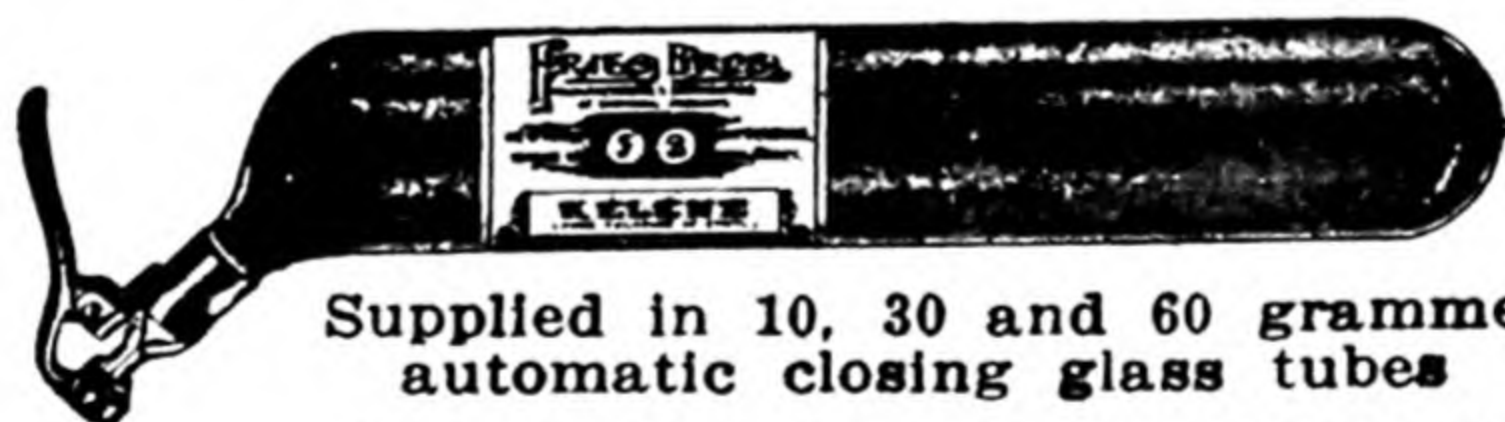
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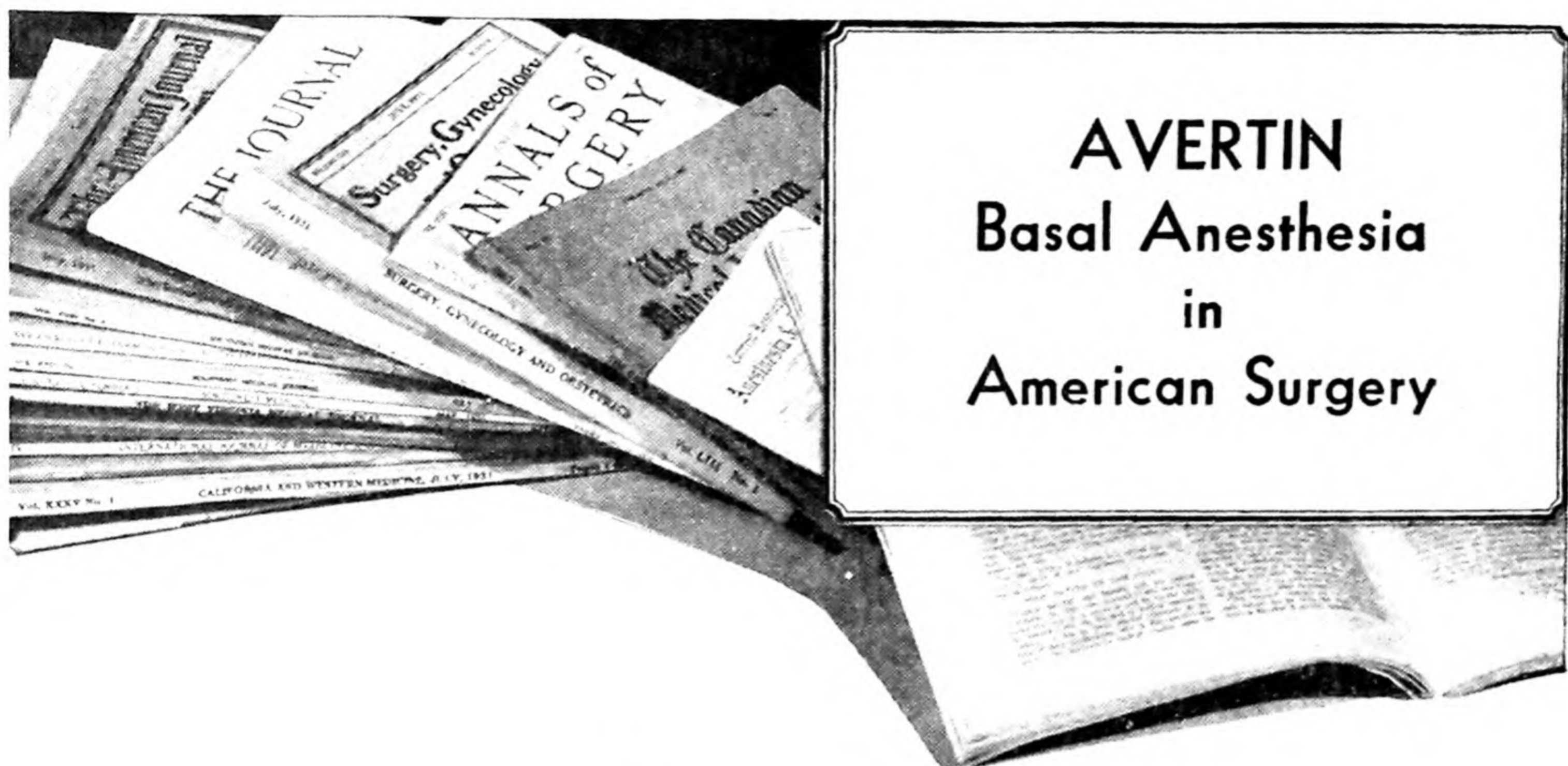
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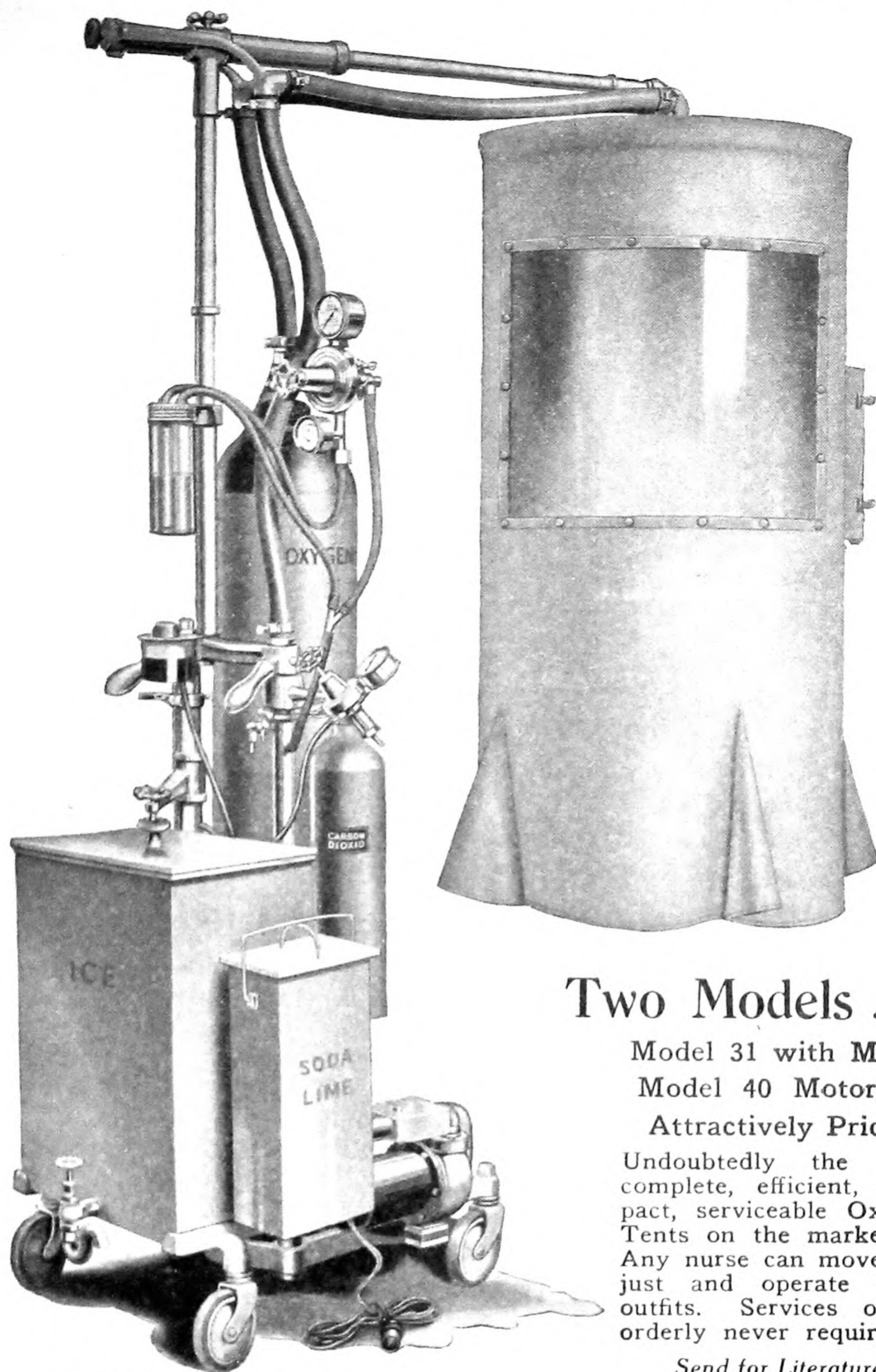
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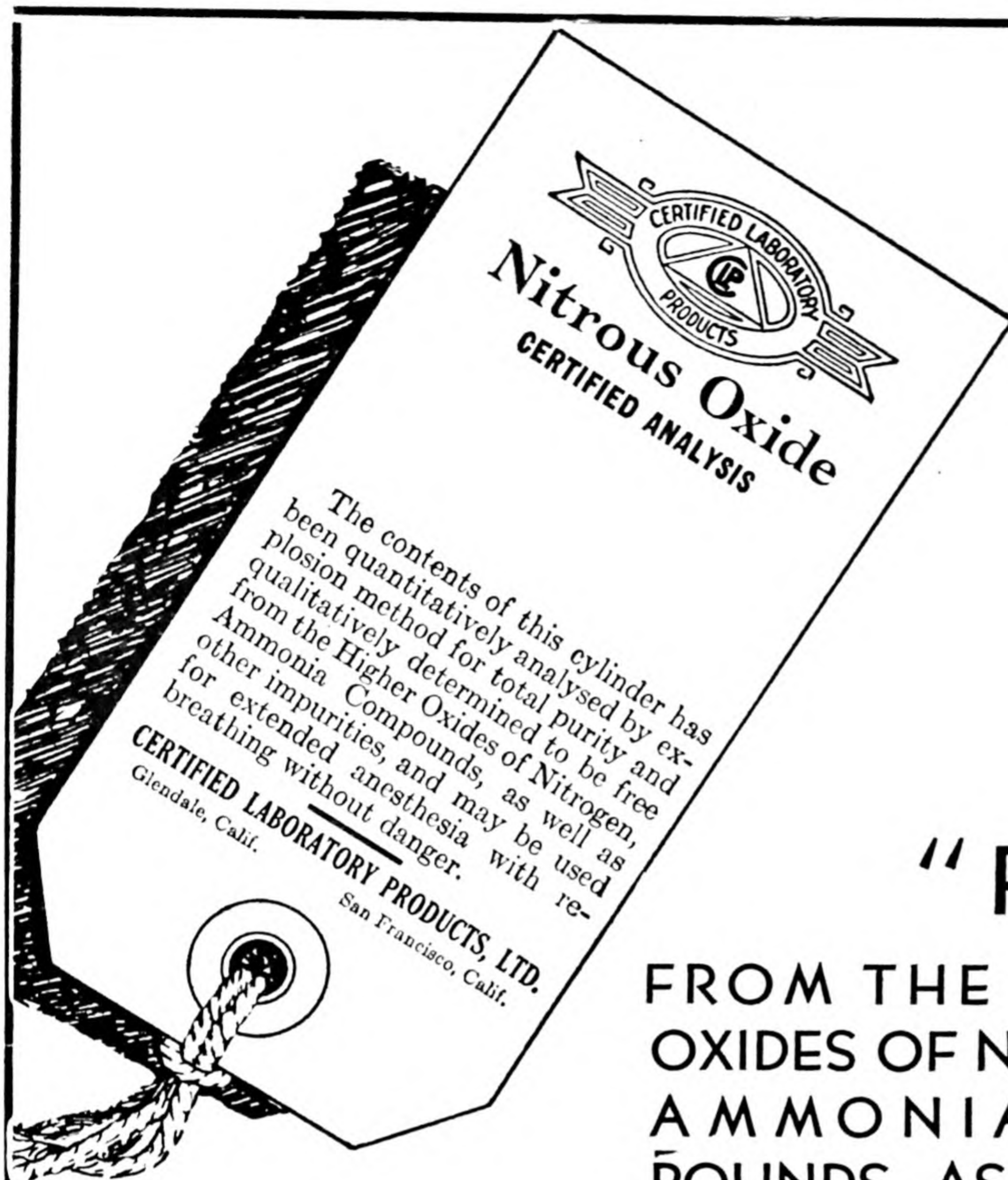
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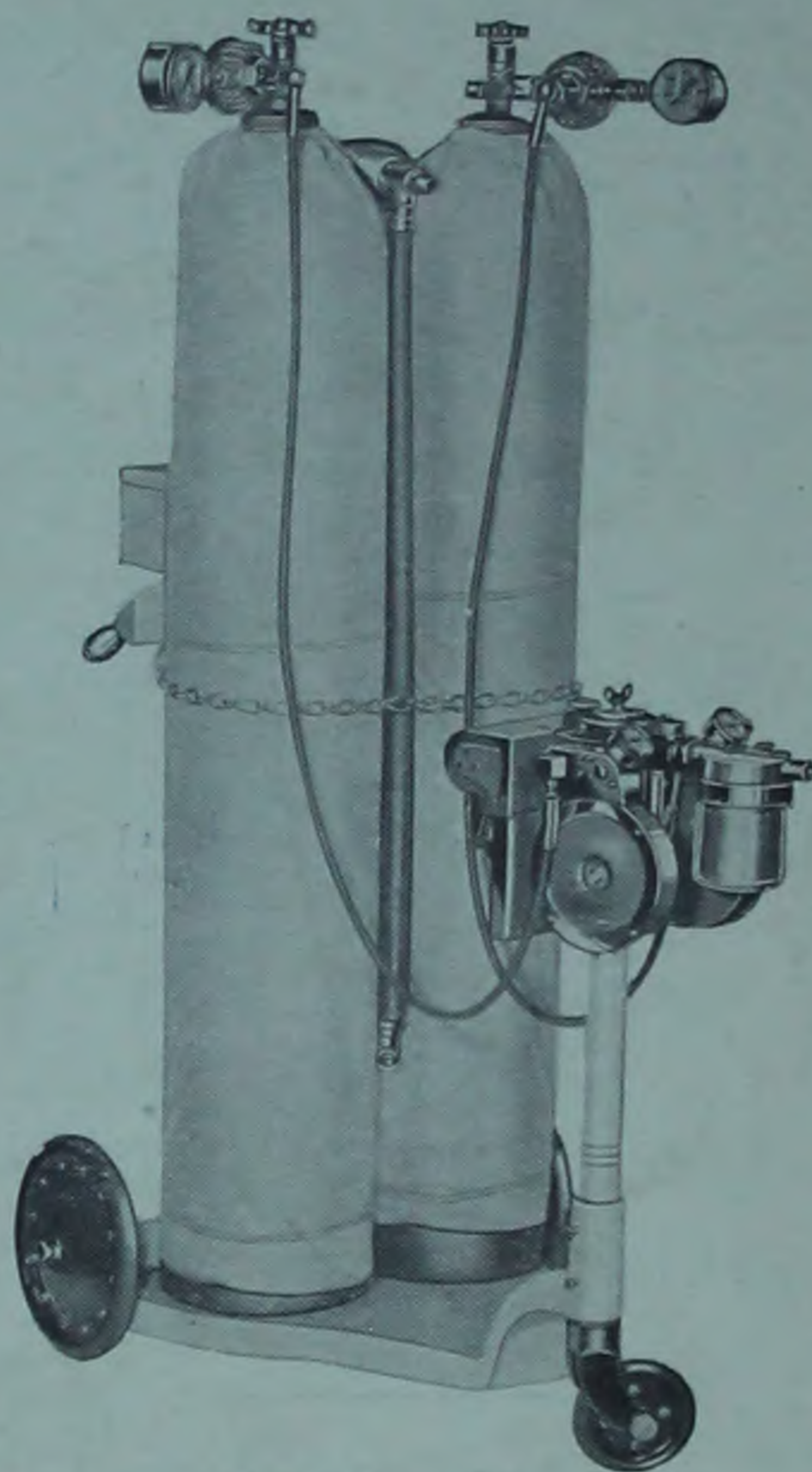








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